



1918 CADILLAC, TYPE 57 – UNRESTORED SURVIVOR OF WW1

Historic Vehicle Association and Department of Interior to Document Historic “Great War” Veteran

Detroit, MI (July 23, 2014) – The Historic Vehicle Association (HVA) www.historicvehicle.org announced today that the 1918 Cadillac, Type 57 – 1257X will be recorded under the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Heritage Documentation. The documentation will be part of the HVA’s National Historic Vehicle Register and Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) that is permanently archived in the Library of Congress. The HVA and U.S. Department of the Interior collaborated on the effort and plan to document other historically significant automobiles.

The Cadillac, Type 57 – 1257X was purchased by Rev. Dr. John H. Denison from Inglis M. Upperco, the Cadillac distributor in New York City. Denison entered the service with the Y.M.C.A. August 1917 and turned over the car to that organization along with his services as a driver to support America’s war effort. The Type 57 seven-passenger touring car arrived in Europe prior to the arrival of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), under the leadership of General John J. “Black Jack” Pershing. The Cadillac, Type 57 – 1257X was at the front near Chalon for the Second Battle of the Marne and afterwards was commissioned to drive Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt on a two-month official mission to create leave areas for U.S. soldiers in France. At the conclusion of hostilities, the AEF turned over their motor pool equipment to France. However, one Cadillac made the return trip to the U.S.

“The Cadillac, Type 57 – 1257X is among those stories where the world has moved on and the history of the important role these cars played has been long forgotten,” said Mark Gessler, President of the Historic Vehicle Association. “This car may well be the only complete and largely unrestored example of a WW1 military Cadillac known to exist. As we approach the 100th anniversary of WW1, the historic significance of this particular Cadillac should be recognized and memorialized.”

The Cadillac, Type 57 – 1257X is being included in the permanent archives of the Library of Congress based on its historic association with important events and persons; its construction and design value of the V8 engine; and informational value as the only car that retains most of its original materials, components and craftsmanship.

“Having the Cadillac, Type 57 – 1257X to be included in the permanent archives of the Library of Congress is more than I could have ever imagined,” said Marc Lassen, Owner. “When I first came across a used car ad describing the vehicle, I thought it might be special, but its history had been lost to time. Researching and reuniting U.S. 1257X with its Great War provenance has been an experience of a lifetime, and an honor.”

“The Cadillac, Type 57 – 1257X is a great example of a ‘rare survivor’ – a vehicle that saw extraordinary use during its active life, yet has survived to the present day,” said Richard O’Connor, Chief, Heritage Documentation Programs, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. “Recognizing the Cadillac military vehicle at the 100th anniversary of WW1 both commemorates America’s participation in the Great War and illustrates one of the many contributions the automobile has made to U.S. history.”

Over the coming year, the HVA will focus its efforts on documenting additional vehicles and continued work with the U.S. Department of the Interior to refine guidelines and processes to eventually support future public submission. The documentation process includes (i) a fully referenced narrative and description of the vehicle, (ii) technical drawings of important elements of the vehicle and (iii) detailed photographs and film negatives for permanent archival in the Library of Congress. These standards for documentation involve the same level of care that has been used to record the Statue of Liberty and the Space Shuttle Discovery. Both domestic and foreign vehicles are considered provided they have significant American history.

About the Historic Vehicle Association (HVA)

The HVA is a membership organization dedicated to promoting the cultural and historical significance of the automobile and protecting the future of our automotive past. The HVA was founded by Hagerty in 2009 and represents the U.S. and Canada in the Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens (FIVA), an international organization to promote and guide the interests of the historic vehicle movement around the world. For more information, please visit

www.historicvehicle.org.